

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for controlling the material displayed on a home entertainment system, comprising:

- 5 a cursor control device;
- a display having a screen for viewing by users;
- a processor for receiving cursor control information from the cursor control device and controlling the position of a cursor on the display;
- at least one cell of video program information associated with a video
- 10 program, displayed on said display by the processor;
- a record icon displayed on the display by the processor; and
- a recording device coupled to the processor for recording the video program associated with the cell when the cell is dragged and dropped by the cursor control device onto the record icon.

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2. The apparatus of claim 1 and further comprising:

- a remind icon displayed on the display by the processor and operable to cause the processor to provide a reminder when a cell is dragged and dropped onto the remind icon prior to the time at which the associated video programming
- 20 is available for display.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 and further comprising:

- a buy icon displayed on the display by the processor and operable to cause the processor to obtain the material identified by a cell that is dragged and
- 25 dropped onto the buy icon.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said material is a product offered for sale.

30 5. The apparatus of claim 1 and further comprising:

at least one second type of cell containing links to computer application programs.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein a computer application program  
5 represented by a cell is executed by the processor when it is selected by the cursor.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein there are multiple cursor control  
devices, and each cursor control device is represented on the display by a cursor  
10 which is identifiable with its corresponding cursor control device.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 and further comprising:  
a view icon displayed on the display by the processor and operable to  
cause the processor to display a video program in full screen mode when a cell is  
15 dragged and dropped onto the view icon.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 and further comprising:  
a picture in picture icon displayed on the display by the processor and  
operable to cause the processor to display a video program in a window located  
20 in a predetermined portion of the display screen.

10. Apparatus for controlling the material displayed on a personal computer  
home entertainment system, comprising:

a plurality of remote control devices for providing command signals;

25 a personal computer further comprising:

a processor;

a main memory;

a bus connecting the processor to the main memory;

a display adapter coupled to the bus;

30 a display driven by the display adapter;

a circuit coupled to the bus for receiving signals from the plurality of remote control devices and decoding the signals to determine the commands, including cursor control signals, wherein the processor receives the cursor control information from the cursor control device and controls the position of a cursor  
 5 on the display;

at least one cell of video program information associated with a video program, displayed on said display by the processor;

a record icon displayed on the display by the processor; and

a recording device coupled to the processor for recording the video  
 10 program associated with the cell when the cell is dragged and dropped by the cursor control device onto the record icon.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 and further comprising:

a remind icon displayed on the display by the processor and operable to  
 15 cause the processor to provide a reminder when a cell is dragged and dropped onto the remind icon prior to the time at which the associated video programming is available for display.

12. The apparatus of claim 10 and further comprising:

20 a buy icon displayed on the display by the processor and operable to cause the processor to obtain the material identified by a cell that is dragged and dropped onto the buy icon.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said material is a product offered  
 25 for sale.

14. The apparatus of claim 10 and further comprising:

at least one second type of cell containing links to computer application programs.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein a computer application program represented by a cell is executed by the processor when it is selected by the cursor.

5 16. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein there are multiple cursor control devices, and each cursor control device is represented on the display by a cursor which is identifiable with its corresponding cursor control device.

17. The apparatus of claim 10 and further comprising:  
10 a view icon displayed on the display by the processor and operable to cause the processor to display a video program in full screen mode when a cell is dragged and dropped onto the view icon.

18. The apparatus of claim 10 and further comprising:  
15 a picture in picture icon displayed on the display by the processor and operable to cause the processor to display a video program in a window located in a predetermined portion of the display screen.

19. An icon driven interface for controlling application and video  
20 programming on a home entertainment system comprising:  
a first set of cells associated with video based programs and arranged in a time ordered manner on a display screen;  
a second set of cells associated with computer application programs on a display screen;  
25 a first set of icons on the display screen separate from the cells, and associated with functions to be performed related to the first set of cells;  
a cursor controllable by a user of the home entertainment system; and  
a cursor control device for moving the cursor, and controlling the cursor to perform dragging and dropping of the cells on said icons to cause the

system to perform the associated functions, and to select application programs from said second set of icons for execution on the system.

1002769-12004  
FOOT 542202